

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP
SHIP CHANNEL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES
Corpus Christi, Texas
April 19, 2012**

Question 3

Will EPA exercise its oversight role – as provided by the Clean Air Act – to ensure that the NEPA analysis of the Harbor Bridge fully considers the air quality impacts to ship channel neighborhoods?

Question 3 Response

The NEPA office will review and provide comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) as required by Clean Air Act Section 309 and CEQ Implementing Regulations for NEPA at 40 CFR 1500-1508.

EPA will meet with lead agencies, review public participation plans, and monitor activities when appropriate as outlined in Executive Order 12898 ([[HYPERLINK "http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/policy/ej_guidance_nepa_ceq1297.pdf"](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/policy/ej_guidance_nepa_ceq1297.pdf)] This guidance includes six principles for environmental justice analyses to determine any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects to low-income, minority, and tribal populations. The principles are:

1. consider the composition of the affected area to determine whether low-income, minority or Tribal populations are present and whether there may be disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on these populations;
2. consider relevant public health and industry data concerning the potential for multiple exposures or cumulative exposure to human health or environmental hazards in the affected population, as well as historical patterns of exposure to environmental hazards;
3. recognize "the interrelated cultural, social, occupational, historical, or economic factors that may amplify the natural and physical environmental effects of the proposed action;
4. develop effective public participation strategies;
5. assure meaningful community representation in the process, beginning at the earliest possible time;
6. seek Tribal representation in the process.